

issue.

Jersey City and Paterson did not have sufficient leadership to continue and no longer function. However, Newark has continued to grow. Let me briefly review what the Citizens Union for Progress has done in the past ten years in Newark.

Our work is concentrated in a 12 Square Block area of the central ward. Our main objective is to reconstitute this neighborhood physically and socially.

A. Housing

1. Sponsored the rehabilitation of 300 units of housing in the West Side Park area of the central ward. The 65 buildings involved are mostly 3-family frame buildings.

2. Granted rehabilitation rights to another corporation to rehabilitate another 400 units of housing in the same general area. The housing project is known as the Amity Villages.

3. Organized a housing cooperative of 96 families. We understand that Amity Village #1 is one of the few surviving cooperatives for low income families.

4. We presently own and manage Amity Village 2A which represents 200 families which we hope to organize into a cooperative in 1978.

5. Our housing program operates a C.E.T.A. (Concentrated Employment Training Act) for 8 neighborhood people who are being trained in all phases of housing maintenance

work. These trainees, along with our skilled plumber and carpenter, installed the solar collectors for heating hot water in a 3-family Co-op building. This was done under the consultation of an engineer.

The crew is currently insulating and weatherizing our buildings. We have the potential to become a neighborhood energy conservation resource center.

B. People Development

1. In 1971 we opened the Tri-City People's Center with funds raised from our housing work. The People's Center sponsors a daily child care program for children ages 2-8 years. Their parents are working or in school. This program offers a comprehensive learning program to the pre-school aged child, an after kindergarten and after school program. However, we are meeting the child care needs of only 10% of the children in our neighborhood.

The Citizens Union for Progress has been instrumental in organizing a coalition of community sponsored child care programs throughout the city called the Emergency Committee to Save Child Care. The coalition has won city funding of 19 community centers and is working to establish a city agency for children called the Office of Early Childhood Services.

2. The People's Center also administers a Neighborhood Aid and Information Center which provides social services to Amity Village residents as well as to the neighborhood

as a whole.

3. The Women and Children's Health Action Projects provide preventive health care services to a minimum of 300 neighborhood people per month. Services of the clinics are used by community groups from other areas as well. Neighborhood women work as outreach workers. Our role has been to provide encouragement and technical assistance to other organizations as well as to play an advocacy role for child health. This advocacy in New Jersey has led to the introduction of new child health legislation for Medicaid children by a New Jersey Congressman. (The Child Health Assurance Act; HR 8974.)

4. Until this month our youth development work has been confined to a summer program and a small teen club. With a grant from a New York foundation we plan to expand that program in December.

This and more has been accomplished largely without the direct involvement of the official Church - with one exception. For one year, the Church at the Crossroads, an American Baptist Church in East Orange, New Jersey, has assigned one of their co-pastors to work full time for our organization. He has extensive experience in financing and bookkeeping and has been instrumental in revamping our financial operation, training new staff and giving budget control training to directors of day care centers in Newark. We expect this project to continue and to grow.

What Can the Episcopal Church Do?

Our work has confirmed that the cities can be redeemed. However, emphasis must be placed on development of the people, not physical rehabilitation alone.

Why not teach people how to renew, manage and maintain their own environment? This is what we feel the urban mission of the Church should be. The urban mission should focus on three major areas:

1. Influencing Public Policy:

Public policy at the city, state and federal level must reflect this commitment to neighborhoods. The Episcopal Church at all levels must use its political influence to help pass legislation, regulations and appropriations that support neighborhood control of public services and programs.

2. Investment in Neighborhoods

The Venture in Missions should invest money in neighborhood development work. There are many possibilities:

1. housing rehabilitation
2. home improvement loans to modest income home owners
3. training programs to develop neighborhood leaders in management and community organization.
4. seed money to start neighborhood sponsored service delivery systems such as child care, health, youth services and senior citizens' programs

These are just a few suggestions.

3. Involvement of People

There are many skills and much information neighborhood people can use. Many church people are looking for meaningful ways to fulfill their ministry.

Concerned outsiders are still welcome in urban communities. The difference is that people who come to help must be prepared to accept local leadership and to work over the long haul. I have been involved in this one organization for 10 continuous years and expect to continue as long as I can.

The most important job we have left in this 20th century is to learn how to work and live together.

Neighborhoods offer the church a chance to redeem itself in the eyes of the people. Time is running out.

Presented Thursday, December 1, 1977

Urban Bishops Coalition Hearings
Episcopal Church, U.S.A.
Newark, New Jersey

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Urban League Coalition Hearings
Episcopal Church, U.S.A.
Newark, New Jersey

Bring your resume to school

My name is Maso Ryan. I have been a resident of the City of Newark since 1921, a public school teacher since 1939, and an Episcopal communicant since 1956.

Today, I am representing Tri-City Citizens Union for Progress, an organization of which I am a founding member and currently serve as president of the Board. The main purpose of my presentation today is to use our experience to make the case for why the Episcopal Church should be investing time and money into neighborhoods.

Our organization came into being largely due to the call of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark to bring the Churches into an active role in the empowerment of black people in the urban centers of northern New Jersey: Newark, Jersey City and Paterson. The major issue was how to take Black Power rhetoric and put it into action.

The Episcopal Diocese gave the organization a \$10,000 grant for two years. This enabled us to keep an operational base for the planning of our housing rehabilitation and after school tutorial programs in Newark. But, when it was time to move into the action stage, only the civil rights activists and lay people were left. The clergy had lost interest and had gone on to some other